

**Titre:** A Julia package for bilevel optimization problems  
Title:

**Auteurs:** Mathieu Besançon  
Authors:

**Date:** 2019

**Type:** Article de revue / Article

**Référence:** Besançon, M. (2019). A Julia package for bilevel optimization problems. Journal of  
Citation: Open Source Software, 4 (39). <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01278>

## Document en libre accès dans PolyPublie

**URL de PolyPublie:** <https://publications.polymtl.ca/4787/>  
PolyPublie URL:

**Version:** Version officielle de l'éditeur / Published version  
Révisé par les pairs / Refereed

**Conditions d'utilisation:** CC BY  
Terms of Use:

## Document publié chez l'éditeur officiel

**Titre de la revue:** Journal of Open Source Software (vol. 4, no. 39)  
Journal Title:

**Maison d'édition:** Open Journals  
Publisher:

**URL officiel:** <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01278>  
Official URL:

**Mention légale:**  
Legal notice:

# , T~S e- <WLC Hbq 4SCfCYbezS S-zb^ edp4V s

Mathieu Besançon<sup>c>|>{</sup>

1 <bYdbY%G-P^S ~C@C[ b^zq-Yk; >; -^-@ 2 KBp, ?>k; >; -^-@ 3 R a; r>R pR XSC  
] bq@B-qpeC>Gq ^<C

DOI: [cOE| ccOE wlbssi OE| uD](#)

## Software

á pGfC...  
á pCebssbq%  
á , q-PfC

Submitted: { ET-^-~-%q OE\_  
Published: OE T~%q OE\_

## License

, ~zPbq bHe-eCq qz- S'  
<be%Pz -^@ qQC-sC zPC...bqW  
~^@Cq- ; qC-zfC; b\ \ b^s  
, zzq4-zb^ JICERzCq^-zb^-Y  
XSC^sCf; ; B^ g

## Summary

[ -zPC\ -zS- YbezS S-zb^ S zPC @S-S^S^C @-S^L ..SP zPC @Cq\ S'-zb^ bHzPC 4Csz fbq-YO  
\ bsz 4Cszg @C-Sb^ ..SP qseCz zb - seC-S <bsz H^<zS^ -^@zb - sCz bH<b^sq-S'zs b^ zPC  
@C-Sb^i 3SCfCYbezS S-zb^ S- <Yss bH\ -zPC\ -zS- YbezS S-zb^ edp4V\ s..SP zPC bezS  
\ -S%db^@S^s bH- Yb..CqPCfYedp4V\ C 4C@Q@S' zPC <b^sq-S'zsi 3SCfC^ ezS S-zb^iY  
S- zbbY4bt 4-Sz b^ zbe bHzPC T-[ diLYCbs%zC\ Hbq\ -zPC\ -zS- YbezS S-zb^ f? ~^S^L>  
O~<PCzC>. X-4S^>| OEug 3SCfCYbezS S-zb^ S ~sC@zb z-<WC f-q~s edp4V\ s S' -qC-s  
s-<P-s eb..CqS%zC\ s>S<-q%eeY-S-zb^s>^Cz..bqW@CS^ bq\ -qWz Q ~S^qsi rOC? C\ eC  
f| OE Dg Hbq-^ bfCqfC...bH-eeY-S-zb^s -^@qC-C^z Hbq\ ~Yzb^s -^@zPCbqCzS- YedpLqCssi  
yPC <b\ e-z-zb^ bH-^ bezS -YsbY-zb^ zb - 4SCfCYedp4V\ S S' LC^Cq YP-q@ BfC^ ..SP  
-Y zPC <b^sq-S'zs -^@ zPC b4U-zfCs -z zPC z..b YCfC6 4CS^L Y^C-q zPC qCs-YzS^L edp4V\  
S ^b^Qb^fCt -^@] dP-q@..SP - ebssS^%@SbS^z HC-s^fC sCzi a ezS S-zb^ eq <zSb^Cq  
bHzC^ qP%b^ edp4V\ GeC-S <edpCqSs -^@\ b@CS^L zC-P^S -Cs bqPC-qSzSsi yPC Lb-YbH  
zPS e-<WLC S zb b' Cq- 4bzP • C^fC\ b@CYbH- LC^Cq Y<Yss bH4SCfCYedp4V\ s -^@- sbYfCq  
..PSP S <b\ e-z^fC..SP zPC T-[ d..bqWb..i

## Bilevel optimization

, LC^CqS Hbq\ ~Yzb^ Hbq- 4SCfCYedp4V\ S=

```
min_x F(x,y)
s.t. G_k(x,y) <= 0 for k in {1..mu}
    y in arg min_y {f(x,y)
        s.t.
            g_i(x,y) <= 0 for i in {1..ml}
    }
```

RHzPC Yb..CqPCfYedp4V\ S <b^fCt>S Q>S HzPC H^<zS^s f(x,y) -^@ g1(x,.) -qC <b^fCt -^@  
S^r YzCqs l ~-S <-zb^ <b^sq-S'zs PbY@ zPC V-q-sPQV -P^Q ~<Wq <b^@Sb^s <-^ 4C ~sC@zb  
<P-q <CqC zPC bezS -Y%z zPC Yb..CqPCfY

Gbq\ bsz Yb..CqPCfYedp4V\ s>zPCqC -qC sCfCq YbezS -YsbY-zb^s f@S Cq^z sbY-zb^s %S^S^L  
zPCs-\ CbezS -Yf-YCbHzPC b4U-zfCg r GfCq Y C^Pb@bLSS P-fC 4C^ @CfCbeC@Hbqs-<P  
<-sC>zPC z..b edp -q%eedp-<PCs 4CS^L zPC bezS SzS- ^@eCssS SzS- 4SCfCYHbq\ ~Yzb^s  
f? C\ eC>| OE Dg qL ~YqS^L zPC sCzCf-YC@edp4V\ 4%L--q ^zC^S^L zPC ~^S -C^Css bHzPC  
Yb..CqPCfYsbY-zb^i yPC -eedp-<P ~sC@S' BilevelOptimization.jl S zPC bezS SzS b^Q

yPS e-<WLC S S^S Y%@CS^C@Hbq- edp4V\ bHzPC Hbq\ =

```
min_x cx^T x + cy^T y
s.t. G x + H y <= q
      x >= 0
      x[j] integer for j in Jx
      y in arg min_y {d^T y + x^T F y
                      s.t. A x + B y <= b
                          y >= 0
                      }
```

$y \in \arg \min_y \{d^T y + x^T F y \mid A x + B y \leq b, y \geq 0\}$

```
min_{x,y,lambda} cx^T x + cy^T y
s.t. G x + H y <= q
      A x + B y <= b
      x, y >= 0
      x[j] integer for j in Jx
      d + F^T x + B^T * lambda = 0
      lambda[i] * (b - A x - B y)[i] = 0 for i in {1..m1}
```

$y \in \arg \min_y \{d^T y + x^T F y \mid A x + B y \leq b, y \geq 0\}$

## Types and methods for bilevel optimization

$y \in \arg \min_y \{d^T y + x^T F y \mid A x + B y \leq b, y \geq 0\}$

`build_blp_model(bp::BilevelLP, solver; [comp_method])`

$\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}^q \times \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

```
á m = zPC T~[ d \ b@CY>
á x = zPC ~eeCqPCfCYfC~zbq bHf- q$ 4YCs>
á y = zPC Yb..CqPCfCYfC~zbq bHf- q$ 4YCs>
á lambda = zPC Yb..CqPCfCY@- Yf- q$ 4YCs>- ^@
á s = zPC Yb..CqPCfCYsY <Wf- q$ 4YCs>
```

$a \in \arg \min_a \{c^T a \mid a \in \mathcal{A}(x)\}$

All signatures of the `build_blp_model` function include a keyword argument `comp_method` for the choice of method to tackle complementarity constraints. The two methods mentioned in the previous section are represented as types, `SOS1Complementarity` and `BoundComplementarity`. For the second option, primal and dual bounds can either be scalars or vectors to use bounds adapted to each constraint. Some problem-specific methods are often used in the literature to handle complementarity constraints in an efficient way. Users of the package can define a new type, optionally sub-typed from `ComplementarityMethod`, and define the following function:

```
add_complementarity_constraint(m, cm::CM, s, lambda, y, sigma)
```

where `CM` is the complementarity constraint type.

## Application to toll-setting problems

The toll-setting problem is a class of bilevel optimization where the two levels of decision are taken on a graph (Brotcorne, Labbé, Marcotte, & Savard, 2001). It belongs to the more general framework of network pricing problems with applications in road management (Harks, Schröder, & Vermeulen, 2019) or telecommunication network reliability (Hayrapetyan, Tardos, & Wexler, 2007).

In this problem, the upper level decides on a toll to apply on some arcs of a directed graph. Each arc has an initial cost and a cost resulting from an upper-level decision. The lower-level problem then consists in finding the minimum-cost flow from a source to a sink with a minimum circulating flow. This problem can be entirely modeled using the framework presented above, using a composite datatype defined in the package for holding all required data, and allowing users to bypass the re-formulation of the model from its algebraic JuMP form to a standard form. Users can describe their problem using the `BilevelFlowProblem` struct containing:

- The initial matrix of arc costs `init_cost`,
- A boolean matrix indicating which edges are taxable `taxable_edges`,
- The capacity matrix `capacities`,
- The different levels of tax that can be applied to each arc `tax_options`, and
- The minimum amount of flow that the follower needs to pass from source to sink `minflow`

Building the `JuMP.Model` is done similarly to the generic bilevel problem, using the following signature:

```
build_blp_model(bfp::BilevelFlowProblem, solver; [comp_method])
```

## More general problem formulations

Even though `BilevelOptimization.jl` is designed for linear-linear bilevel problems which can be described by the `BilevelLP` type, the API allows users to bypass the upper-level problem specification. They can provide a pre-built `JuMP.Model` with the upper-level objective and constraints already set, for instance for quadratic or conic upper level formulations. The only requirement is that the solver must support both the type of constraints specified in the model and in the `comp_method`. This flexibility allows users to leverage some recent advances on mixed-integer convex optimization and solvers tackling these problems (Lubin, Yamangil, Bent, & Vielma, 2016). As of the current state of `BilevelOptimization.jl`, the only restricted part of the model is the linear-quadratic lower-level, which is required to exploit Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions.

## References

- Brotcorne, L., Labbé, M., Marcotte, P., & Savard, G. (2001). A bilevel model for toll optimization on a multicommodity transportation network. *Transportation science*, 35(4), 345–358. doi:[10.1287/trsc.35.4.345.10433](https://doi.org/10.1287/trsc.35.4.345.10433)
- Dempe, S. (2018). *Bilevel optimization: Theory, algorithms and applications*. TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Fakultät für Mathematik und Informatik.
- Dunning, I., Huchette, J., & Lubin, M. (2017). JuMP: A modeling language for mathematical optimization. *SIAM Review*, 59(2), 295–320. doi:[10.1137/15m1020575](https://doi.org/10.1137/15m1020575)
- Harks, T., Schröder, M., & Vermeulen, D. (2019). Toll caps in privatized road networks. *European Journal of Operational Research*. doi:[10.1016/j.ejor.2019.01.059](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejor.2019.01.059)
- Hayrapetyan, A., Tardos, É., & Wexler, T. (2007). A network pricing game for selfish traffic. *Distributed Computing*, 19(4), 255–266. doi:[10.1007/s00446-006-0020-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00446-006-0020-y)
- Lubin, M., Yamangil, E., Bent, R., & Vielma, J. P. (2016). Extended formulations in mixed-integer convex programming. In Q. Louveaux & M. Skutella (Eds.), *Integer Programming and Combinatorial Optimization: 18th International Conference, IPCO 2016, Liège, Belgium, June 1-3, 2016, Proceedings* (pp. 102–113). Cham: Springer International Publishing. doi:[10.1007/978-3-319-33461-5\\_9](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-33461-5_9)
- Pineda, S., & Morales, J. M. (2019). Solving linear bilevel problems using big-ms: Not all that glitters is gold. *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, 1–1. doi:[10.1109/TPWRS.2019.2892607](https://doi.org/10.1109/TPWRS.2019.2892607)